

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 7, 2011

PRESENT: Paul Baker, Liz Etheridge, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy and Walter Mullin, Anne and Ed Stanek.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have \$9352.10 in our account. This does not include some expenses that need to be paid out nor income from the fundraising letter. There will be a gathering of note writers at the Mullins at some point to help with responses to the fundraising letters.

JULIO'S REPORT

Julio had requested \$65 in order to send the receipts through a special carrier as he does not trust the regular mail. We agreed to send him the money but we also agreed that this would be a one-time thing to get the process going. In the future we expect him to scan in receipts and send them electronically. Julio has not yet sent the receipts but in his latest email to Mary, he promises to do so next week!

Julio reports that Angela has moved out of the small building adjacent to the Community Center. She was living there free of rent in exchange for acting as the caretaker. This worked very well – there were no robberies while she was there and she took an interest in keeping up the building and grounds. Now, Julio wants to know if we'd like him to find another family to live there or pay for a caretaker. He has a long list of people who are interested. We would definitely prefer to have a family living there rather than paying a caretaker. However, we had some questions:

1. Does Julio have a job description in mind for the potential family – a list of tasks that he expects to be fulfilled by the family? If so, could he list them for us?
2. Would it be a good idea to charge the family something for utilities?

Julio reports that the students have completed their school year and he will be sending their grades soon.

THE LETTER

Julio's response to our letter has been poor at best. We had asked for receipts by the beginning of December, but have yet to receive them.

We had asked for written evidence of the bank progress as well as a copy of the most recent bank statement. His only response to that was to email Mary that nothing new has happened.

Finally, we asked for budgets and have not received any.

Given these facts, some of us feel that it is crucial that we have a committee delegation go over to La Paz as soon as possible in order to break the status quo. There was much discussion about the purpose of this visit and the details of what might be accomplished. We finally agreed that a subcommittee would come up with a detailed task list that would be presented to the whole committee for discussion. Some of the items that we discussed are:

1. Trying to find a lawyer who could help us with the banking issues. Kathy has a contact in Nagarote whom she will follow up on.
2. Identify a bookkeeper who would keep track of projects and be responsible for budgets and receipts, etc. Once again, Kathy will contact the Accountant associated with the NGO in Nagarote that she has heard about. We are thinking that committee members might meet with this person to get some advice.
3. We would like to support the public library by sending calculators and text books that students need there. Liz has emailed the librarian a couple of times but not received a reply. Liz will try a Peace Corps worker with whom she is in Facebook contact to see if she can give us some advice. We also talked about the committee members meeting with the school principal. Liz is thinking that the project for the next delegation might be to fix up the library.
4. We would like to speak personally with the women we have thought would be good committee members to see if there is real interest.
5. We would like to speak with Julio personally about his interest, expectations, etc. regarding the Sister City.

The **sub-committee** will consist of Liz Etheridge, Kathy Mullin, Mary Santiago and Anne Stanek. They **will meet on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 5:45** – location to be decided.

The full committee will meet on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT 7:30 in the LOWER INTERNAL MEETING ROOM of the Bangs Center.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stanek, Chair